

MEMORANDUM

Office of the United States Trustee

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Subject: *Debtor's Social Security Numbers
And Identification*

Date: *December 20, 2000*

To: *ALL BANKRUPTCY PRACTITIONERS*

From: *PATRICIA M. DUGAN
Assistant U.S. Trustee*

IMPORTANT - 341 MEETING POLICY CHANGE

Beginning with all cases filed after **JANUARY 1, 2001**, all chapter 7 and chapter 13 debtors **MUST PROVIDE CASE TRUSTEES WITH PICTURE IDENTIFICATION TO VERIFY THEIR IDENTITY AND PROOF OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.**

Acceptable picture identification includes a valid state-issued driver license, state-issued picture identification card, passport or legal resident alien card.

Acceptable proof of social security number includes a social security card, a current W-2 form or some other official document which shows name and social security number.

The **341 meeting WILL BE CONTINUED** to the trustee's next calendar date if a debtor does not have the required identification.

You will be required to file an amended petition to correct any incorrect social security numbers or names listed on the petition. Social Security fraud will be referred to the United States Attorney.

The U.S. Trustee believes that it is important to verify social security numbers to protect innocent third parties from both the intentional or inadvertent use of their social security numbers and to prevent bankruptcy fraud. The credit records of any individual whose social security number was used will reflect a bankruptcy filing, when in fact that individual may not have filed bankruptcy. The cost to correct the adverse credit history can be substantial. We believe that with your assistance we will be able to reduce the number of cases which are being filed with incorrect social security numbers.

We appreciate your cooperation in implementing this new policy.